

Brief Discussion of the Amendments

Claims 9, 17, and 26 were objected to by the Office Action for including quotation marks in the text of the claims. These claims have been amended to remove quotation marks inserted within the text of the claims.

Traverse of the Office Action Rejection

At the time of filing the present application, the present application and *Malik* were commonly owned by and assigned to the same entity, BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation. Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), subject matter asserted as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) does not preclude patentability of the claimed invention where the subject matter and claimed invention were, at the time of the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. The present application was filed on February 25, 2000. At the time of filing the present application, *Malik* and the present application were owned by and assigned to the same common entity, BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation. Since *Malik* can no longer be asserted as prior art against the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), the Office Action rejection of Claims 1-29 is respectfully traversed.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), the following version of the claims as rewritten by the foregoing amendments show all the changes made relative to the previous versions of the claims.

9. (Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein in response to the routing of the communication to the subscriber's directory number, the communication is first routed to an SSP serving the subscriber's directory number ([“]subscriber's SSP[“]);

wherein the subscriber's SSP is operative, in response to routing of the communication, to make a query of the SCP with respect to the communication; and

wherein the SCP, in response to the query, is operative to cause the communication to be transferred to the different directory number.

17. (Amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein the action comprises an action other than receipt of a voice mail message from the caller ([“]an other action[“]).

26. (Amended) The VMS of Claim 24, wherein the action comprises an action other ([“]an other action[“]) than receipt of a voice mail message from the caller or the communication.

CONCLUSION

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1-29 are still pending in the present application. It is submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references and a notice of allowance is requested. If there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call Chris Chan at (404) 815-6048.

Respectfully submitted,



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